

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the abstract with the amended abstract attached hereto as a separate sheet pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.72.

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

Expression cassettes and transgenic plants comprising an antisense homogentisate
Homogentisate dioxygenase nucleic acid sequence.

In the specification at page 14, line 29, please replace the paragraph which starts with “The recombinant DNA”, with the following amended paragraph:

The recombinant DNA molecules were sequenced with a ~~Lieor~~ LICOR laser fluorescence DNA sequencer (available from MWG Biotech, Ebersbach) by the method of Sanger (Sanger et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 74 (1977), 5463-5467).

In the specification at page 14, line 37, please replace the paragraph which starts with “The amino acid sequence”, with the following amended paragraph:

The amino acid sequence of the hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD) from *Streptomyces avermitilis* (accession No. U11864) was back-translated into a DNA sequence taking into consideration the codon usage in *Brassica napus* (oilseed rape). The codon usage was determined by means of the Codon Usage database of AFFRC <http://www.dna.affrc.go.jp/~nakamura/index.html>. The deduced sequence (SEQ ID NO: 14) was synthesized by ligating overlapping oligonucleotides, followed by PCR amplification (Rouwental, GJA; et al, (1997) PMB 33:989-999), while attaching SalI cleavage sites. The correctness of the sequence of the synthetic gene was checked by sequencing. The synthetic gene was inserted into the vector ~~pBluescript~~ pBLUESCRIPT II SK+ (Stratagene).

In the specification at page 16, line 31, please replace the paragraph which starts with “The fragment”, with the following amended paragraph:

The fragment was purified by means of ~~NucleoSpin~~ NUCLEOSPIN Extract (Machery and Nagel) and cloned into the vector pGEMT (Promega) following manufacturer's instructions.

In the specification at page 18, line 1, please replace the paragraph which starts with "The amplicon", with the following amended paragraph:

The amplicon was cloned in each case into the vector ~~pCR-Script~~ PCR-SCRIPT (Stratagene) following the manufacturer's instructions.

In the specification at page 18, line 42, please replace the paragraph which starts with "The amplicon", with the following amended paragraph:

The amplicon was cloned in each case into the vector ~~PCR-Script~~ PCR-SCRIPT (Stratagene) and named HGDanti (Figure 3, construct II).